

WE CLAIM:

1. A tray for packaging food products which release smelly volatile substances, produced from a sheet of substantially open-cell expanded thermoplastic material containing a finely divided solid material provided with adsorbing properties towards said substances.

2. A tray according to claim 1, having an inner surface provided with apertures.

3. A tray according to claim 2, wherein said material is selected from the group comprising aluminium oxide, bentonite, kaolin, activated charcoal, zeolites, synthetic polymers with a high melting point such as polyphenyloxide and polyimides, graphite, mica, diatomaceous earth, pumice and clay.

4. A tray according to claim 3, wherein said material has particles with an average particle size comprised between 0.5 and 100 μm .

5. A tray according to claim 4, wherein said material is powder aluminium oxide with particle sizes comprised between 5 and 30 μm .

6. A tray according to claim 5, wherein the content of aluminium oxide is comprised between 0.5 and 8% by weight of the total weight of said sheet of expanded thermoplastic material.

7. A tray according to claim 6, wherein the content of aluminium oxide is comprised between 1.5 and 4% by weight of the total weight of said sheet of expanded thermoplastic material.

8. A tray according to claim 2, wherein said thermoplastic

material is selected from the group comprising polystyrene, polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene, polyvinylchloride, and copolymers thereof.

9. A tray according to claim 8, wherein said thermoplastic material is polystyrene.

10. A tray according to claim 6, wherein said thermoplastic material is selected from the group comprising polystyrene, polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene, polyvinylchloride, and copolymers thereof.

11. A tray according to claim 6, wherein said thermoplastic material is polystyrene.

12. A tray according claim 2, wherein said sheet contains at least one surfactant.

13. A tray according to claim 10, wherein said sheet contains at least one surfactant.

14. A sheet of substantially open-cell expanded thermoplastic material provided with apertures on at least one of its surfaces, and having the property of adsorbing smelly volatile substances, which sheet contains at least 0.5% by weight of a powder material provided with adsorbing properties towards said substances.

15. A sheet of expanded thermoplastic material according to claim 14, wherein said material is selected from the group comprising aluminium oxide, bentonite, kaolin, activated charcoal, zeolites, synthetic polymers with a high melting point such as polyphenyloxide and polyimides, graphite, mica, diatomaceous earth, pumice and clay.

16. A sheet according to claim 15, wherein said material has particles with average particle size comprised between

0.5 and 100 μm .

17. A sheet according to claim 16, wherein said material is powder aluminium oxide with particle size comprised between 5 and 30 μm .

5 18. A sheet according to claim 17, wherein the content of aluminium oxide is comprised between 0.5 and 8% by weight of the total weight of said sheet of expanded thermoplastic material.

10 19. A sheet according to claim 18, wherein the content of aluminium oxide is comprised between 1.5 and 4% by weight of the total weight of said sheet of expanded thermoplastic material.

15 20. A sheet according to claim 14, wherein said thermoplastic material is selected from the group comprising polystyrene, polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene, polyvinylchloride, and copolymers thereof.

20 21. A sheet according to claim 18, wherein said thermoplastic material is selected from the group comprising polystyrene, polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene, polyvinylchloride, and copolymers thereof.

22. A sheet according to claim 20, wherein said thermoplastic material is polystyrene.

25 23. A sheet according to claim 21, wherein said thermoplastic material is polystyrene.

24. A sheet according to claim 14, containing at least one surfactant.

25. A sheet according to claim 21, containing at least one

surfactant.

26. A method for packaging food products that release
smelly volatile substances, comprising the steps of
arranging said food products on a tray made of an open-cell
expanded thermoplastic material, provided with apertures on
the inner surface and including a powder material provided
with adsorbing properties towards said substances; and
sealing everything in a protective atmosphere by means of a
wrapping of plastics material having barrier properties
with respect to gases.

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